Preface

With increasing global needs to renovate and re-develop historical downtown areas, the conflict between historical buildings and new buildings is becoming a critical question.

There used to be two typical ways to solve the problem: to ignore the local historical style or to copy it. Based on the more restricted demands for continuing local contexts and considering the needs for sustainable design, neither of these two methods is appropriate.

The New Craig County Hall, a small-scale historical re-development project in Town of New Castle, Craig County, Virginia, provides an ideal opportunity for investigating these questions. It is located in the historical town center filled with neo-classical and Victorian style public and commercial buildings.

When sitting in the downtown plaza with a cup of coffee in this 19th-century southern American town, you can feel the pulse of history and sense the beauty of the scene.